THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM): (a) The details are as under:—

(RS. in Crore)

Year	Air India Profit/(Loss)	Indian Airlines Profit/(Loss)
1994-95	40.80)	(188.73)
1995-96	(271.84)	(109.98)
1996-97*	(286.00)	(95.35)

*(April to December 1996—Provisional)

Air India incurred losses mainly due to increase in expenditure on account of interest and depreciation on new aircraft, reduction in yield, increased landing, handling and navigational charges, agitation of engineers, etc.

The major reasons for losses by Indian airlines are due to decline in market share because of entry of private Airlines, increased landing, handling and navigational charges, agitation of pilots etc.

(b) Air India and Indian Airlines are taking steps to improve their product, image and on time performance to attract more passengers and to increase revenue.

Air Traffic Control Project of Mumbai

1658. SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:
SHRI RAM GOPAL YADAV:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Air Traffic Control Project of Mumbai has been shelved on account of safety hazard;

(b) the permissible height of Air Traffic Control Tower and the proposed one in Mumbai;

(c) the persons responsible for violating safety norms;

(d) action proposed to be taken against those responsible for mishandling the project?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (d) The Air Traffic Control Tower is constructed at a selected place to a height sufficient enough to ensure alround unobstructed view of the air field including take-off and approach paths of the aircraft. However, the matter is being enquired into.

Heading Newsitem Regarding New Norms for Unclaimed Dividends

1659. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem which appeared in the Business Standard dated 17th February, 1997 captioned "New Norms for unclaimed Dividends likely";

(b) whether it is a fact that companies are casual in paying dividends; and

(c) whether Government have any machinery to monitor such activities; and

(d) if so, details thereof, to protect small shareholders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Adequate safeguards are available in the matter of payment of dividends including the unpaid/unclaimed dividends to the shareholders in terms of Sections 205A, 205B, 206 and 207 of the Companies Act, 1956.

The Department of Company Affairs has an Investors Protection Cell which *inter-alia* deals with complaints relating to non-receipt of dividend warrants. All such complaints are acknowledged and

taken up with the concerned companies for prompt redressal through a fully computerised system. In addition, the Registrars of Companies (ROCs) and the Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) also receive similar complaints in respect of which appropriate action is taken from time to time.

Details of such complaints received by the Cell are as under:—

Year	No. of complaints	No. of companies against which complaints received	No. of complaints redressed so far
1995	1846	413	1445
1996	2288	362	1147

Non-Honouring of Letters of Credit of Public Sector Banks by SBI

1660. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Bank of India has decided not to honour the letters of credit of five public sector banks, namely United Commercial Bank, United Bank of India, Vijaya Bank, Indian Bank and Punjab and Sind Bank whose worth allegedly stood eroded;

(b) if so, what were the precise reasons and circumstances for erosion of networth of the said five banks; and

(c) what steps have since been taken to restore the networth of these banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) State Bank of India (SBI) have reported that they have not issued directions to any of their branches prohibiting of discounting of bills under the L/Cs of the five banks referred in the Question. They have further reported that the instructions issued by them in December, 1996 regarding L/Cs did not in any way called for dishonouring the L/Cs of the five banks.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of reply to point (a) above.

Import of used Rig by Essar World Trade Under DEEC

1661. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem which appeared in Economic Times dated 27th January, 1997, under the heading 'Essar World Trade bid to import' used rig under the Duty Exemption Entitlement Certificate;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government have taken against the Customs Officer involved in an alleged attempt by the Essar World Trade Ltd.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. M/S. Essar World Trade Ltd. filed shipping bill for export of an old and used on-shore rig under Duty Exemption Scheme which could have entitled them to benefit available under the DEEC Scheme. However, rig's export under Duty Exemption Scheme was not allowed as it was noticed that the same was an old and used one. C.B.I. investigated the matter and reported that no evidence could be collected by them so as to take any action against M/S. Essar World Trade Ltd. C.B.I. have also reported that there was no loss of